# United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management

#### **Decision Record**

#### **Environmental Assessments**

DOI-BLM-UT-Y020-2013-0030-EA (Canyon Country District) DOI-BLM-UT-C020-2013-027-EA (Color Country District)

#### **June 2014**

### May 2014 Oil and Gas Lease Sale

Location: Canyon Country District

Grand and San Juan Counties, Utah

**Color Country District** 

Sanpete and Sevier Counties, Utah

Applicant/Address: U.S. Department of the Interior

Bureau of Land Management

Utah State Office

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#### **DECISION RECORD**

#### **Environmental Assessments**

#### DOI-BLM-UT-Y020-2013-0030-EA (Canyon Country District) DOI-BLM-UT-C020-2013-027-EA (Color Country District)

It is my decision to select Alternative A – Proposed Action from the environmental assessments ("EAs") prepared by the Bureau of Land Management ("BLM") Canyon Country District (DOI-BLM-UT-Y020-2013-0030-EA) and the BLM Color Country District (DOI-BLM-UT-C020-2013-027-EA) for the May 20, 2014, competitive oil and gas lease sale ("May 2014 Lese Sale"). More specifically, it is my decision to issue leases with the protective measures (lease stipulations and notices) identified in the above referenced EAs and the Notice of Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale ("NCLS") issued on February 14, 2014, and subject to the changes identified in the errata sheets<sup>1</sup> issued on May 19, 2014, for the following 93 parcels (approximately 102,262 acres) that were offered at the lease sale auction held on May 20, 2014:

Canyon Country District parcels (DOI-BLM-UT-Y020-2013-0030-EA):

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UTU90275 (UT0214-002), UTU90276 (UT0214-003), UTU90277 (UT0214-128), UTU90278 (UT0214-132), UTU90279 (UT0214-136), UTU90280 (UT0214-156), UTU90281 (UT0214-157), UTU90282 (UT0214-158), UTU90283 (UT0214-159), UTU90284 (UT0214-160), UTU90285 (UT0214-161), UTU90286 (UT0214-162), UTU90287 (UT0214-163), UTU90288 (UT0214-174), UTU90289 (UT0214-176), UTU90290 (UT0214-177), UTU90291 (UT0214-178), UTU90292 (UT0214-179), UTU90293 (UT0214-180), UTU90294 (UT0214-181), UTU90295 (UT0214-182), UTU90296 (UT0214-183), UTU90297 (UT0214-184), UTU90298 (UT0214-187), UTU90299 (UT0214-188), UTU90300 (UT0214-191), UTU90301 (UT0214-202), UTU90302 (UT0214-203), UTU90303 (UT0214-204), UTU90304 (UT0214-205), UTU90305 (UT0214-206), UTU90306 (UT0214-207), UTU90307 (UT0214-213), UTU90308 (UT0214-214), UTU90309 (UT0214-215), UTU90311 (UT0214-217), UTU90312 (UT0214-218), UTU90313 (UT0214-219), UTU90314 (UT0214-220), UTU90315 (UT0214-222), UTU90316 (UT0214-223), and UTU90317 (UT0214-224).
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#### Color Country District parcels (DOI-BLM-UT-C020-2013-027-EA):

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UTU90318 (UT0514-001), UTU90319 (UT0514-002), UTU90320 (UT0514-003), UTU90321 (UT0514-004), UTU90322 (UT0514-005), UTU90323 (UT0514-006), UTU90324 (UT0514-008), UTU90325 (UT0514-009), UTU90326 (UT0514-010), UTU90327 (UT0514-011), UTU90328 (UT0514-012), UTU90329 (UT0514-013), UTU90330 (UT0514-015), UTU90331 (UT0514-016), UTU90332 (UT0514-017), UTU90333 (UT0514-020), UTU90334 (UT0514-023), UTU90335 (UT0514-034), UTU90336 (UT0514-035), UTU90337 (UT0514-037), UTU90338 (UT0514-038), UTU90339 (UT0514-039), UTU90340 (UT0514-043), UTU90341 (UT0514-047), UTU90342 (UT0514-053), UTU90343 (UT0514-056), UTU90344 (UT0514-057), UTU90345 (UT0514-058), UTU90346 (UT0514-059), UTU90347 (UT0514-060), UTU90348 (UT0514-061), UTU90349 (UT0514-064), UTU90350 (UT0514-080),
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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The NCLS posted on February 14, 2014, and the errata sheets posted on May 19, 2014, are available online at the BLM Utah's oil and gas lease sale website, which is located at: http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/prog/energy/oil and gas/oil and gas lease.html

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UTU90351 (UT0514-089), UTU90352 (UT0514-092), UTU90353 (UT0514-118), UTU90354 (UT0514-120), UTU90355 (UT0514-121), UTU90356 (UT0514-122), UTU90357 (UT0514-123), UTU90358 (UT0514-124), UTU90359 (UT0514-125), UTU90360 (UT0514-126), UTU90361 (UT0514-127), UTU90362 (UT0514-128), UTU90363 (UT0514-129), UTU90364 (UT0514-130), UTU90365 (UT0514-132), UTU90366 (UT0514-133), UTU90367 (UT0514-135), and UTU90368 (UT0514-136).
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This decision incorporates the documented results presented in the Finding of No Significant Impacts ("FONSI") that was issued for the May 2014 Lease Sale based upon the above referenced EAs. Based upon a review of the EAs and the supporting documents in the administrative record for the May 2014 Lease Sale, and considering the criteria for significance provided by Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations ("CFR") 1508.27, the FONSI determined that leasing the aforementioned 93 parcels is not a major federal action and it will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment, individually or cumulatively with other actions in the general area, beyond those described in the Record of Decision ("ROD") and Approved Resource Management Plan ("RMP") for the Moab Field Office (which incorporates analysis from the Moab Field Office Proposed RMP and Final Environmental Impact Statement) (2008, as maintained), the ROD and Approved RMP for the Monticello Field Office (which incorporates analysis from the Monticello Field Office Proposed RMP and Final Environmental Impact Statement) (2008, as maintained), and the ROD and Approved RMP for the Richfield Field Office (which incorporates analysis from the Richfield Field Office Proposed RMP and Final Environmental Impact Statement) (2008, as maintained).

Oil and gas leasing is a principal use of the public lands, as identified in sections 102(a) (12) and 103(1) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 ("FLPMA"), and it is conducted to meet requirements of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 ("MLA"), as amended, the Mining and Minerals Policy Act of 1970, and the Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Reform Act of 1987. The authority to make this decision is implemented in 43 CFR Part 3100.

#### PLAN CONFORMANCE AND CONSISTENCY

The Proposed Actions were reviewed and found to be in conformance with the decisions contained in the RODs and Approved RMPs for the Moab, Monticello and Richfield Field Offices.

The Proposed Action identified in the EA prepared by the Canyon Country District (DOI-BLM-UT-Y020-2013-0030-EA) is in conformance with the ROD and Approved RMP for the Moab Field Office because it is specifically provided for in the following decisions:

**MIN-12 - Leasable Minerals:** The plan will recognize and be consistent with the National Energy Policy Act and related BLM policy by adopting the following objectives: recognizing the need for diversity in obtaining energy supplies; encouraging conservation of sensitive resource values; and improving energy distribution opportunities.

MIN-13 - Leasable Minerals: In accordance with an Utah Department of Environmental Quality-Division of Air Quality ("UDEQ-DAQ") letter dated June 6, 2008 (see Moab RMP Appendix J) requesting implementation of interim nitrogen oxide ("NOx") control measures for compressor engines; BLM will require the following as a lease stipulation and a condition of approval ("COA") for Applications for Permit to Drill ("APDs"):

- All new and replacement internal combustion oil and gas field engines of less than or equal to 300 design-rated horsepower must not emit more than 2 grams ("gms") of NOx per horsepower-hour. This requirement does not apply to oil and gas field engines of less than or equal to 40 design-rated horsepower.
- All new and replacement internal combustion oil and gas field engines of greater than 300 design rated horsepower must not emit more than 1.0 gms of NOx per horsepower-hour.

MIN-14 - Leasable Minerals: Lease stipulations have been developed to mitigate the impacts of oil and gas activity (see Moab RMP Appendix A and Map 12). The stipulations adhere to the uniform format prepared by the Rocky Mountain Regional Coordinating Committee in March 1989. Stipulations reflect the minimum requirements necessary to accomplish the desired resource protection and contain provisions/criteria to allow for exception, waiver and modification if warranted. Stipulations would be determined unnecessary if duplicative of Section 6 of the Standard Lease Terms. The BLM has identified land-use plan leasing allocations for all lands within the Moab Field Office. In addition, the Approved RMP describes specific lease stipulations and program related best management practices (see Moab RMP Appendix A: Stipulations and Environmental Best Practices Application to Oil and Gas Leasing and Other Surface Disturbing Activities) that apply to a variety of different resources.

## **MIN-19 - Leasable Minerals:** Oil and Gas Leasing Stipulations (see Moab RMP Map 12):

- Approximately 427,273 acres will be open to oil and gas leasing, subject to standard terms and conditions.
- Approximately 806,994 acres will be open to oil and gas leasing subject to controlled surface use ("CSU") and timing limitation ("TL") stipulations.
- Approximately 217,480 acres will be open to oil and gas leasing subject to a no surface occupancy ("NSO") stipulation.
- Approximately 370,250 acres will be closed to oil and gas leasing, of which 25,306 acres are outside Wilderness or Wilderness Study Areas. About 25,306 acres are closed to oil and gas leasing because it is not reasonable to apply a NSO stipulation. This includes areas where the oil and gas resources are physically inaccessible by current directional drilling technology from outside the boundaries of the NSO areas. (These lands closed to oil and gas leasing will be managed to preclude all other surface-disturbing activities.) Should technology change, a plan amendment will be initiated to place these 25,306 acres under a NSO stipulation for oil and gas leasing.
- In addition, 8,078 acres of federal minerals/non-federal surface (split-estate lands) will be managed as open to oil and gas leasing with a NSO stipulation, and 1,539 acres of split-estate lands will be closed to oil and gas leasing (see Moab RMP Appendix A).

The Proposed Action identified in the EA prepared by the Canyon Country District (DOI-BLM-UT-Y020-2013-0030-EA) is in conformance with the ROD and Approved RMP for the Monticello Field Office because it is specifically provided for in the following decisions:

**MIN-6:** The plan will recognize and be consistent with the National Energy Policy Act and related BLM policy by adopting the following objectives: recognizing the need for diversity in obtaining energy supplies; encouraging conservation of sensitive resource values; and improving energy distribution opportunities.

MIN-10: Split-estate lands (private surface/federal minerals) and lands administered by other federal agencies are not managed by the BLM. The surface owner or surface management agency ("SMA") manages the surface. The BLM administers the operational aspects of oil and gas leases. On lands administered by other federal agencies, lease stipulations will include those required by the SMA. On split-estate lands, lease stipulations will consist of those necessary to comply with non-discretionary federal laws, such as the Endangered Species Act. The one exception to this will be the stipulations developed for Gunnison Sage-grouse as identified in Appendix B [of the Monticello RMP]. Mitigation measures will also be applied to protect other resource values such as VRM class, recreation, and non-federally protected fish and wildlife species consistent with Section 6 of the Standard Lease Terms. These mitigation measures will be developed during site-specific environmental analysis and will be attached as COAs in consultation with the surface owner or SMA.

MIN-11: In accordance with an UDEQ-DAQ letter dated June 6, 2008, (see Monticello RMP Appendix C) requesting implementation of interim nitrogen oxide control measures for compressor engines; the BLM will require the following as a lease stipulation and a COA for APDs:

- All new and replacement internal combustion oil and gas field engines of less than or equal to 300 design-rated horsepower must not emit more than 2 gms of NOx per horsepower-hour. This requirement does not apply to oil and gas field engines of less than or equal to 40 design-rated horsepower.
- All new and replacement internal combustion oil and gas field engines of greater than 300 design rated horsepower must not emit more than 1.0 gms of NOx per horsepower-hour.

**MIN-23:** Approximately 484,217 acres are administratively available for oil and gas leasing, subject to standard lease terms.

**MIN-24:** Approximately 594,469 acres are administratively available for oil and gas leasing subject to TL.

**MIN-25:** Approximately 60,741 acres are administratively available for oil and gas leasing subject to CSU.

**MIN-26:** Approximately 85,384 acres are administratively available for oil and gas leasing subject to TL and CSU.

**MIN-27:** Approximately 66,108 acres are administratively available for oil and gas leasing subject to NSO.

The Proposed Action identified in the EA prepared by the Color Country District (DOI-BLM-UT-C020-2013-027-EA) is in conformance with the ROD and Approved RMP for the Richfield Field Office because it is specifically provided for in the following decisions:

MIN-1: Issue oil and gas leases and allow for oil and gas exploration and development.

**MIN-6**: Lease split-estate lands according to BLM RMP stipulations for adjacent or nearby public lands or plans of other SMAs as consistent with federal laws, 43 CFR 3101, and the surface owner's rights.

**MIN-9**: In accordance with an UDEQ-DAQ letter dated June 6, 2008, (see Richfield RMP Appendix 13) requesting implementation of interim nitrogen oxide control measures for compressor engines; BLM will require the following as a lease stipulation and a COA for APDs:

- All new and replacement internal combustion gas field engines of less than or equal to 300 design-rated horsepower must not emit more than 2 gms of NOx per horsepower-hour. This requirement does not apply to gas field engines of less than or equal to 40 design-rated horsepower.
- All new and replacement internal combustion gas field engines of greater than 300 design rated horsepower must not emit more than 1.0 gms of NOx per horsepower-hour.

**MIN-10:** Area closed to leasing: 447,300 acres.

MIN-11: Manage fluid mineral leases as shown on Map 23 [of the Richfield RMP]:

- Areas open to leasing with standard lease terms: 608,700 acres.
- Areas open to leasing subject to CSU and/or TL: 917,500 acres.
- Areas open to leasing subject to NSO: 154,500 acres.

The Proposed Actions are also consistent with the RODs and Approved RMPs for the Moab, Monticello and Richfield Field Offices and their corresponding goals and objectives, related to the management of (including but not limited to) air quality, BLM Natural Areas, cultural resources, recreation, riparian areas, soils, water, vegetation, fish and wildlife, lands with wilderness characteristics and Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. Conformance of the Proposed Actions with the applicable land use planning documents is discussed in Chapter 1 of both EAs.

The consistency of the Proposed Actions with the applicable land use plans was verified during site visits to the May 2014 Lease Sale parcels.

#### **ALTERNATIVES AND RATIONALE FOR DECISION**

Both EAs considered two alternatives: Alternative A – Proposed Action, and Alternative B – No Action. Other action alternatives were not considered because the issues identified during scoping (Canyon Country District - internal and external / Color Country District - internal) did not indicate a need for additional alternatives or protective measures beyond those contained in

the Proposed Actions. The No Action alternatives were considered and analyzed to provide a baseline for comparison.

In processing the expressions of interest ("EOIs") filed with this office, BLM considered oil and gas leasing on approximately 443,371 acres of land within the jurisdiction of the Canyon Country and Color Country District Offices ("DOs"). Based upon a lease parcel review process that was conducted in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act ("NEPA") and BLM Washington Office ("WO") Instruction Memorandum ("IM") No. 2010-117, *Oil and Gas Leasing Reform – Land Use Planning and Lease Parcel Reviews*, approximately 341,109 acres of the nominated lands were either removed or deferred from consideration for offering at the May 2014 Lease Sale.

Lands were removed from leasing consideration if they were determined to be unavailable for lease. The nominated lands that were determined to be unavailable for lease included lands within Wilderness Study Areas, lands already under an existing oil and gas lease and lands where the United States ("US") Government does not own the mineral rights.

The reasons for deferring leasing consideration for certain nominated lands included a need for additional time to complete and document appropriate analysis regarding the potential impacts of leasing upon Gunnison sage-grouse, cultural resources, residential infrastructure associated with proximate incorporated towns, water quality in the Quitchupah Creek area, lands with wilderness characteristics, the Old Spanish National Historic Trail, and a city park authorized pursuant to the Recreation and Public Purposes Act. Lands were also deferred on account of being located within the boundaries of pending Master Leasing Plans, incomplete and ongoing Native American consultation, inadequate coverage of oil and gas leasing by the St. George Field Office ROD and Approved RMP, and workload limitations associated with the available staff in the Canyon Country DO.

Additional and more detailed information regarding the nominated lands deferred or removed from the May 2014 Lease Sale lands is documented in the EA prepared for the Canyon Country DO (DOI-BLM-UT-Y020-2013-0030-EA) at Chapter 1.2 and Appendix G, in the EA prepared for the Color Country DO (DOI-BLM-UT-C020-2013-027-EA) at Appendix D, and in the Deferred Lands List maintained on the BLM Utah's oil and gas lease sale website.<sup>2</sup>

The NCLS posted on February 14, 2014, identified 96 parcels, encompassing approximately 102,726 acres, proposed for offering at the May 2014 Lease Sale. The parcels proposed for lease in the NCLS corresponded with the parcels analyzed and recommended for lease in the EAs and in memoranda from the Canyon Country and Color Country DOs to the BLM Utah State Office.

On May 19, 2014, errata sheets for the NCLS were posted that deferred leasing consideration for three parcels due to the identification by BLM Utah Cadastral Survey of discrepancies in the metes-and-bounds descriptions for the US acquired minerals for those parcels, corrected the legal descriptions and acreages for four parcels and applied additional lease notices to several parcels. As a result, 93 lease parcels, encompassing approximately 102,262 acres, were offered for sale during the competitive auction held on May 20, 2014.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Accessed online at:

 $http://www.blm.gov/style/medialib/blm/ut/lands\_and\_minerals/oil\_and\_gas/miscellaneous\_oil0.Par.47285.File.dat/Deferred\%20Lands\%20Master\%20List.pdf$ 

Bids were received for 62 of the 93 parcels offered at the May 20, 2014, lease sale auction. The parcels that were not bid upon became available for noncompetitive lease for a two-year period that commenced on May 21, 2014. Of the parcels that were not bid upon, three received noncompetitive lease offers on May 21, 2014.

The Proposed Actions, as modified by errata and discussed above, were selected because they best met the BLM's purpose and need for action. Selling oil and gas leases is needed to meet the energy needs of the United States and offering parcels for competitive oil and gas leasing, as has occurred with the May 2014 Lease Sale, will allow for the orderly development of fluid mineral resources under the jurisdiction of BLM in a manner that is consistent with multiple use management and the need to consider potential impacts to the environment and other resources that may be present.

The lease parcel reviews completed by BLM for the May 2014 Lease Sale, which included preparation of the EAs, ensured that adequate provisions were included in the standard lease terms and lease notices and stipulations in order to protect public health and safety and assure full compliance with the objectives of the National Historic Preservation Act ("NHPA"), the Endangered Species Act ("ESA"), NEPA, FLPMA and other federal laws and regulations designed to protect the environment and the multiple use management of public lands.

Under the Proposed Actions, continued interdisciplinary support and consideration would be required to ensure on-the-ground implementation of planning objectives, including the proper implementation of lease stipulations and notices and best management practices through the APD process.

Notice, involvement, coordination and consultation with the public and interested stakeholders, which included private surface owners of "split estate" lands (private surface/federal minerals), the US Fish and Wildlife Service ("USFWS"), the US Forest Service, the National Park Service, Native American Tribes, and the State of Utah's State Historic Preservation Office ("SHPO"), Division of Wildlife Resources ("UDWR"), Public Lands Policy Coordination Office ("PLPCO") and School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration ("SITLA"), has occurred for the May 2014 Lease Sale in full compliance with the requirements imposed by NHPA, ESA, MLA, 43 CFR Subpart 3120, BLM WO IM No. 2010-117 and other applicable laws, regulations and policies.

Detailed information regarding public and stakeholder involvement with the May 2014 Lease Sale has been documented in the EAs and the administrative record compiled and maintained by the BLM Utah State Office for the May 2014 Lease Sale.

As noted above, this decision is in compliance with the requirements imposed by NHPA. In order to identify and assess potential impacts to cultural resources, including those that are eligible for protection under NHPA, BLM cultural resources specialists reviewed and analyzed existing records for cultural resources within the project area for the May 2014 Lease Sale. The aforementioned cultural records reviews and analyses indicated potential cultural site densities that, when combined with considerations of the specific geography and protective measures (i.e. standard lease terms and specific applicable lease notices and stipulations) for the subject lease parcels, lead to determinations that the issuance and subsequent development of the subject lease parcels could occur without adversely effecting cultural resources, including those eligible for protection under NHPA.

In accordance with the consultation requirements of NHPA, and in an attempt to identify and solicit additional information regarding potential impacts to cultural resources, including historic properties eligible for protection under NHPA, BLM sent letters to SHPO and potentially interested Native American Tribes regarding the proposed leasing action and BLM's determinations as to the potential impacts of the May 2014 Lease Sale upon cultural resources. On October 21, 2013, BLM received concurrence from SHPO with respect to the BLM's cultural resources/NHPA determination for the May 2014 Lease Sale parcels located within the Canyon Country DO. On December 11, 2013, BLM received concurrence from SHPO with respect to the BLM's cultural resources/NHPA determination for the May 2014 Lease Sale parcels located within the Color Country DO.

Additional information regarding the compliance of the May 2014 Lease Sale with NHPA, the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, the Native American Graves and Protection Act, and other related laws, regulations and policies, which includes summaries of the correspondence and consultation with Native American Tribes for the May 2014 Lease Sale, has been documented in the EA prepared for the Canyon Country DO parcels (DOI-BLM-UT-Y020-2013-0030-EA) at Chapter 5 and Appendices C, D and F, in the EA prepared for the Color Country DO parcels (DOI-BLM-UT-C020-2013-027-EA) at Chapter 5 and Appendix C, and in the administrative record compiled and maintained by the BLM Utah State Office for the May 2014 Lease Sale.

Also as noted above, this decision is in compliance with all requirements imposed by ESA. The BLM coordinated with USFWS and UDWR to identify and evaluate the potential impacts to plant and animal species, including BLM sensitive species and species listed or proposed for listing as threatened or endangered under ESA, that may result for leasing the May 2014 Lease Sale parcels. The USFWS and UDWR, which have jurisdiction by law and expertise over the fauna and flora in Utah, were both involved with BLM's application of lease notices and stipulations to the May 2014 Lease Sale parcels. Since appropriate lease notices and stipulations for the protection of plant and animal species, including BLM sensitive species and species listed or proposed for listing as threatened or endangered under ESA, have been identified and applied through interdisciplinary and interagency efforts, BLM concluded that plant and animal species were not likely to be adversely affected by the May 2014 Lease Sale.

On May 19, 2014, informal consultation with USFWS for the May 2014 Lease Sale was concluded when BLM received a memorandum with which USFWS provided its concurrence with BLM's determination that leasing of the May 2014 Lease Sale parcels "may affect, but not likely adversely affect" specific species protected under ESA.

Additional information regarding the BLM's coordination with USFWS and UDWR, and its analysis and determinations as to the potential impacts of the May 2014 Lease Sale upon plant and animal species, is documented in the EAs and in the administrative record maintained by the BLM Utah State Office for the May 2014 Lease Sale.

The EAs were also prepared in full compliance with the requirements outlined in BLM WO IM No. 2010-117, which included the posting of drafts of the EAs and unsigned FONSIs for public review and comment from December 20, 2013 to January 27, 2014. The comments received and BLM responses and actions as a result of those comments have been documented in the EA prepared for the Canyon Country DO parcels (DOI-BLM-UT-Y020-2013-0030-EA) at Chapter 5

and Appendices D, E and F, and in the EA prepared for the Color Country DO parcels (DOI-BLM-UT-C020-2013-027-EA) at Chapter 5 and Appendix E.

Issuance of the NCLS on February 14, 2014, initiated a public protest period that ended on March 17, 2014. A single protest, which was jointly filed by Rocky Mountain Wild and WildEarth Guardians (collectively "RMW"), was the only protest received for the May 2014 Lease Sale. The protest filed by RMW protested the inclusion of three parcels, all of which are located in the Color Country DO. Following a review of the merits of this protest, BLM issued a formal decision that resulted in the offering of all three parcels protested by RMW at the May 20, 2014, competitive oil and gas lease auction.

On February 11, 2014, the BLM Monticello Field Office received a letter from Michael Wynn requesting that two parcels located in the Canyon Country DO be excluded from offering at the May 20, 2014, competitive oil and gas lease auction. This office elected to formally address that letter as if it were a formal and properly-filed protest, despite the fact that it was received outside of the formal protest period, because of the nature of the request and assertions contained with the letter. Following a review of the assertions and request contained with the letter submitted Michael Wynn, the determination was made to offer both parcels, which Mr. Wynn requested be excluded, at the May 20, 2014, competitive oil and gas lease auction.

There are no unresolved protests of the May 20, 2014, competitive oil and gas lease sale<sup>3</sup>.

/s/ Kent Hoffman
Authorized Officer

June 27, 2014 Date

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The full content of the protest, the letter addressed as a protest and the associated formal responses from BLM for the May 2014 Lease Sale are available online at the BLM Utah's oil and gas lease sale website, which is located at: http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/prog/energy/oil\_and\_gas/oil\_and\_gas\_lease.html